

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-11

SAB-01 SCCT-01 /110 W

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R 091744Z APR 76

FM USSMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 985

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2009

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 03684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, EX

SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3109, (B) THE HAGUE 1699, (C) LUXEMBOURG 289

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR BEN HORIN HAS TOLD ME OF HIS GROWING CONCERN OVER WHAT HE CALLS "THE EROSION OF THE EUROPEAN POSITION" IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. HE HAS TWO WORRIES: FIRST, THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE NOW VERGING ON READINESS "TO DISCUSS" THE INITIAL POLITICAL STATEMENTS WHICH IT HAS BEEN
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AGREED WILL BE MADE BY BOTH SIDES AT THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING

ON MAY 18-20. SECOND, THAT THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL BE PRESENT UNDER THE DUBLIN FORMULA WILL BE INTRODUCED AS ANOTHER ARAB AMBASSADOR AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE WELL IF WE REITERATED OUR VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES. HIS READING OF EUROPEAN POSITIONS IS THAT THE GERMANS AND DUTCH WHO HAVE BEEN SOLID ARE BEING DRAGGED ALONG BY OTHER EUROPEANS WHO NOT ONLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE FOR BUT ARE ALSO UNCERTAIN OF WHAT THEY ARE AGAINST. HE HAS PERSONALLY DISCUSSED THE MATTER RECENTLY WITH WURTH IN LUXEMBOURG WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS RESIGNED TO THE DEVELOPING PRESSURES, AND WITH DAVIGNON OF BELGIUM WHO, HE SAYS, IS SOLID ON THE ISSUES. HE WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO EXACTLY WHAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAS SAID IN LUXEMBOURG APRIL 6 BUT HE BELIEVES THE TENOR OF IT WAS UNHELPFUL. WE UNDERSTAND SAUVAGNARGUES, SPEAKING TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, SAID, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT HE REGARDED IT AS "INEVITABLE" THAT THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WOULD DEAL WITH POLITICAL QUESTIONS, POSSIBLY AS SOON AS THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN MAY.

2. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME EROSION OF THE EUROPEAN POSITION, THE SITUATION IS UNDER MORE CONTROL THAN BEN HORIN ALLEGES. ISRAELI DIPLOMATS IN BRUSSELS HAVE BEEN JITTERY ABOUT THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE FROM THE START AND HAVE CONSISTENTLY PREDICTED THE WORST. NEVERTHELESS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO HAVE THE MISSION AND EMBASSIES IN MEMBER CAPITALS (PARTICULARLY LUXEMBOURG AS PRESIDENCY) REVIEW THE SITUATION AND, IF IT APPEARS NECESSARY, EXPRESS US CONCERN ON ONE OR BOTH THESE POINTS. (IF AN APPROACH IS MADE IN LUXEMBOURG, BEN HORIN'S DOUBTS ABOUT WURTH'S POSTURE SHOULD, OF COURSE, NOT BE REVEALED.) HINTON

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